

From: Jean Gallagher [mailto:jeangallagher@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2006 5:06 PM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Cc: Marc Shargel
Subject: MLPAComments: Reject staff package and adopt Package 2

As a California resident and diver who has been diving and observing marine life along the central California coast since the early 60's, I strongly urge that you reject a "Staff Package" and adopt the already modest Package 2 for protection of diving and other popular spots for no-take recreation. The Staff Package appears to be only minimally better than the status quo. We deserve better from the MLPA and DFG staff. Marine life "protection" is not accomplished by naming areas marine reserves. The time for effective action making the labels mean something is long overdue.

I am especially disappointed with the way the Staff Package frustrates the widely supported and eminent wisdom of establishing a non-consumptive reserve from the Breakwater to Lovers Point. Allowing spearfishing contests in the Pacific Grove and Carmel Bay Marine Conservation Areas also flies in the face of any conservation logic I can understand.

What a shame and waste of time and money it would be if the work of the MLPA task force ends up making little difference to our precious marine resources.

Please reject the Staff Package in favor of Package Two. I'm ever hopeful that real change can happen.

Sincerely,

Jean Gallagher
San Rafael CA